

author warned, to take the pains to work through the appropriate example, in all numerical detail, in order to thoroughly appreciate the meaning to be attached to the process, and to recognize whether the data to be tested are appropriate for parallel treatment.

The publication of this work should prove successful.

I. M. RABINOWITCH

Simplified Nursing. Florence Dakin, R. N. 497 pages, 77 illustrations. Price \$3.00. J. B. Lippincott Co., 201 Unity Bldg., Montreal, 1925.

This book gives simple but definite instruction in general nursing. It is conveniently arranged in thirty-eight lessons with adequate index and glossary. While it is a valuable text-book for the nurse in training, it should be of especial assistance to the trained attendant or the home nurse of the family. It gives in detail the little practical points of general nursing and first aid, and also, clear, common sense instructions regarding disinfection, sterilization, the preparation of food, and the carrying out of treatment. There is sufficient physiology and bacteriology given to instil interest in the technical instruction, and enough of the ordinary symptoms of disease outlined to make the student or attendant conversant with the general condition of the patient.

A. H. MACCORDICK

Physical Diagnosis of Diseases of the Chest. Joseph H. Pratt, A.M., M.D. and George E. Bushnell Ph.D., M.D. 522 pages, 166 illustrations. Cloth \$5.00 net. W. B. Saunders Co., Philadelphia and London, 1925.

This work is the result of the experience of the writers in the classes of instruction in physical diagnosis as carried out in the Medical Reserve Officers' Camps, U.S.A., during the war. It was found that many physicians who had paid no especial attention to physical diagnosis, became interested in the subject and developed a previously unsuspected facility. Colonel Bushnell was in charge of the Division of Internal Medicine under the Surgeon General. He devoted all his time to tuberculosis, and to standardize the examinations for tuberculosis, he issued *Circular No. 20* which became a classic and has stood well the test of time. Within a year of entering the war he had 450 especially trained tuber-

culosis examiners at work to weed out all cases of active tuberculosis from the army. Bushnell is responsible for the section of the book dealing with respiratory diseases. Dealing only with diagnosis, he restricts his writing almost entirely to a discussion of physical signs. There is only passing reference to radiology under pneumothorax and tuberculosis. Even the value of history and symptoms in such conditions as pulmonary abscess receive little notice. Hence the work is not a complete presentation of the subject of diagnosis. His chapters on diagnostic procedures as applied to diseases of the lung, and on physics and physiology in relation to physical diagnosis are splendid. The practitioner who reads these chapters can not but receive much help. Bushnell did not live to see his book in print. His death occurred while the book was in press.

Pratt's section of the book on diseases of the heart is based in part on anatomy, but chiefly on normal and pathological physiology. The fundamentals of the newer physiology of the heart and circulation have been included. The subject of diagnosis is dealt with from the point of view of bedside and office examination. Emphasis is placed on the simpler methods of diagnosis. The reader is reminded that the observant eye, the trained finger and the educated ear are of more value than all the instrumental means of diagnosis. Throughout the work there is an attempt to teach how to estimate the impairment of heart function rather than to deal with anatomical diagnosis alone. Pratt is to be congratulated upon his presentation of the subject.

J. H. ELLIOTT

Diabetes and Its Treatment by Insulin and Diet. Orlando H. Petty, M.D., and William H. Stoner, M.D. 133 pages, illustrated. Price \$1.50 net. F. A. Davis Co., Philadelphia, 1925.

This volume presents a clear, concise and up-to-date synopsis of the present treatment of diabetes, both as to diet and the use of insulin; intelligible to the patient and valuable as a ready reference to the physician. There are extensive tables giving the caloric value, the vitamin content, the protein fat and carbohydrate composition of foods. Other tables give salt free and acid and base forming diets. A chapter on cooking recipes should be of especial value to those who prepare the diabetics' food, outside the hospital. A. H. MACCORDICK

Arsenic Poisoning.—Twenty-eight cases of arsenic poisoning are reported by G. B. Lawson, W. P. Jackson and G. S. Cattanach, Roanoke, Va. Large quantities of arsenic were demonstrated to be present in cider which had been served at the noon meal. It was later learned that the barrel had contained an arsenic compound used for spraying trees. Thirteen of these patients died, the first death occurring in six hours, and the thirteenth on the thirteenth day after the taking of the poison. Ten of these deaths occurred in the acute stage, and the other three during the subacute stage, into which the patients had passed with a cessation of the acute symptoms on the second day. Immediately following the onset, vigorous supportive and symptomatic treatment was given; and nine patients,

all of whom survived, repeatedly lavaged their own stomachs with warm water. After the Marsh test had demonstrated an abundance of arsenic, it was decided to use sodium thiosulphate with the hope of inactivating the remaining arsenic by the production of its nontoxic, insoluble sulphid. No immediate improvement was observed following the use of sodium thiosulphate. To be of possible value in acute poisoning, it should be given at once and in maximum doses. Analysis of samples taken at the time of the poisoning showed the presence of 3.38 grains of arsenic (As_2O_3) per fluid ounce. Most of the patients drank several glasses of the cider, but because of the vomiting and diarrhoea it was impossible to determine the amount retained.—*Jour. A. M. A.*, July 4, 1925.